

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM SCHMIDT

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. William Schmidt, the Village President of Hampshire, Illinois, on his more than 40 years of service and devotion to the Village and its residents. After arriving in Hampshire in 1945, Mr. Schmidt taught history at Hampshire High School for 23 years. His commitment to his students and to the community's young people is evident in his enduring relationships with many of these individuals.

Bill Schmidt began his public service in 1980 as a Village Board member. He was subsequently elected to a 4-year term as Village Trustee in 1981. First elected as Village President in 1985, Mr. Schmidt was then elected to four additional successive terms, serving a total of 20 years as Village President.

During his tenure, Bill worked to ensure a diversified tax base for the Village by expanding the Village's boundaries to include the I-90 and U.S. 20 interchange, securing more than \$7 million in public investment that leveraged nearly \$100 million in private investment, and securing new businesses that created more than 750 new jobs.

Bill and his late wife, Dorothy, have helped to position Hampshire for a successful future by building on the community's history, values and respect for each of its citizens. I would like to extend my thanks to Bill Schmidt for his many years of service and dedication to the people of Hampshire, Illinois. The Village of Hampshire is certainly fortunate to have benefited from his talent and expertise for so many years.

HONORING JOHANNA CLARK

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Johanna Clark, the Boyertown Outstanding Student of the Year.

Johanna Clark is that special kind of student who not only excels in her academic work at school, but one who enthusiastically participates in all sorts of extracurricular activities. Johanna is seen by many in such a positive light that she is commonly described as caring, effervescent, intelligent, and responsible.

Johanna has said that she lives to help other people and make them happy. This is clearly evident through the work she is involved in. She is a member of the Boyertown High School Key Club, Student Council, "Insight," the high school cable television talk

show, the Boyertown Holiday House tour, peer mediation, and the meth hotline mentoring program. Johanna diligently provides support for others while consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic.

Johanna's academic achievement is quite impressive, with a current grade point average of 4.01. She has taken honors English courses since her freshman year and she began taking both honors social studies and science as a sophomore. As a senior, she has added to her impressive academic schedule by taking AP environmental science. And Johanna has been a member of the National Honor Society since her junior year.

Johanna has future plans to attend Millersville University where she will major in early childhood education, elementary education, and she then plans to get her certification in English as a Second Language. Johanna has expressed interest in teaching second grade upon graduation. As a high school student, she has already gained considerable experience working as a Sunday school teaching assistant at St. John's Lutheran Church in Boyertown for many years. At St. John's, Johanna also assists with the youth group, serves as an acolyte, and helps out in the nursery.

Johanna is the daughter of Jenny and Fitzhugh Clark and is the third of four children. Johanna's family life has served as a source of inspiration for her by instilling her with lasting values and an extraordinary work ethic. She stated how grateful she was to have people in her life who have inspired her, and in particular, her grandmother, Jeanne Dill. Johanna says that "she is the most honest and giving person I know. I have worked so hard over the years to be like her as best as I could and to make her proud . . . because of her, in a big way, I am who I am today."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring this tremendous young lady. Johanna Clark is an inspiration to all through her hard work and community service. It is an honor to stand before you to recognize and congratulate Johanna on her many impressive accomplishments and to wish her the very best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
BETH SMITH

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Hays County Justice of the Peace Beth Smith.

Beth Smith attended Austin Community College and Southwest Texas State University, studying Criminal Justice. She has set an example for other law enforcement professionals by continuously updating her educational credentials, working as a Campus Manager for

Austin Community College and substitute teaching for the Hays County Independent School District. She was elected as the First Mayor of Mountain City in 1984, and served in that capacity for 14 years.

Judge Smith has been tremendously active in the community. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the President of the Gang Response Intervention Program. She has held the position of Associate Municipal Judge for the City of Kyle, and is President of Hays County Rural Fire District #5.

Ms. Smith is married to her husband Everett, and has three children. She was first elected to office in 1999, and represents Precinct 2 on the County Justice Court. She has been especially zealous protecting the well-being of Hays County youth, and has been consistently involved with intervention programs to help those most at risk.

Justice of the Peace Beth Smith is a tremendous resource for her community, both as a volunteer and a public official. She has served her neighbors with distinction, and I am honored to have the chance to recognize her here today.

REGARDING CLEAN CRUISE SHIP  
ACT OF 2005

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker many Americans enjoy taking cruises, in large part because they get to see some of the nation's most beautiful marine ecosystems. Because I want to see these beautiful marine ecosystems protected for future generations to enjoy, I am introducing The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005.

The Cruise Ship Industry has experienced much success over the past few years. In fact, the industry has grown an average of 10 percent per year over the past 8 years, including an almost 17 percent increase in 2000. Unfortunately, as it grows, its potential to negatively affect the marine environment grows as well. Over a week's time, a single 3,000 passenger cruise ship, according to EPA and industry data, generates a tremendous amount of waste: Over 200,000 gallons of black water (raw sewage) are created. Approximately 1 million gallons of gray water (runoff from showers, sinks and dishwashers) are produced. More than 35,000 gallons of oily bilge water (oil and chemicals from engine maintenance that collect in the bottom of ships and are toxic to marine life) are generated. Isn't it reasonable to think that these ships should be subject to the same wastewater regulations as those governing municipalities of comparable size? I think so.

While many cruise ship companies have environmental policies in place, many are voluntary with no monitoring or enforcement provisions. Unfortunately, I am all too familiar with

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the down-side to voluntary agreements. In my district a cruise ship—breaking its voluntary agreement—illegally discharged into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2002. Simply put, voluntary agreements between cruise lines and states aren't enough to ensure protection of our oceans. The public deserves more than industry's claims of environmental performance. We need a Federal law and we need it now. It's time we strengthen the environmental regulations and in so doing, bring these floating cities in line with current pollution treatment standards. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is the answer.

The legislation that I am introducing today, which has bipartisan support and is endorsed by over 30 local and national groups, plugs existing loopholes in Federal laws, requires ships to treat their wastewater wherever they operate, and authorizes broadened enforcement authority. Several states including California, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and Washington have enacted or are currently considering legislation to better regulate various cruise ship wastes—similar to the legislation I am introducing today. In fact, I am proud to report that California is leading the country in protecting its coastal waters from cruise ship pollution. Passage of the Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is one of the ways to provide all states with the kinds of ocean and coastal protections that the people of California, Alaska and Maine benefit from. Enactment of this bill will protect the tourism industry by making sure that the beaches and oceans, two of the attractions that make California the most visited state in our country, will be protected from cruise ship pollution. Simply put, this legislation ensures two things: (1) a sustainable future for our oceans, and (2) a sustainable future for the cruise and tourism industry.

This legislation promotes the public interest for all Americans. The public deserves clean water—both in our inland waterways and in our oceans. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005, through its discharge standards, will give the public what it deserves.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

#### INTRODUCING THE ELECTION WEEKEND ACT OF 2005

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 2001, the National Commission on Federal Election Reform released its report highlighting a variety of reforms that need to occur in our country's faltering election system. While I did not agree with all of the Commission's views, I did agree with the report's recommendation to establish a federal holiday on Election Day.

Today, my good friend from California, Representative Honda, and I are taking the Commission's recommendation one step further and introducing the Election Weekend Act of 2005. Our bill changes our nation's Election Day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in November. Furthermore, it expresses the sense of Congress that private sector employers provide their employees

with one day off during Election Weekend to allow them ample opportunity and time to cast their ballot without having to leave work.

Each Election Day, employees are faced with the difficult task of balancing their work schedules with their family responsibilities, while trying to find time to make it to the polls. Our bill recognizes the undue amount of pressure Americans face when trying to participate in the democratic process. It acknowledges the fact that a great deal of Americans are unable to leave their jobs in the middle of the day and vote because our elections occur on a Tuesday, a day when almost all Americans are working.

As more and more Americans enter the workforce, the choice they are forced to make between working or voting has resulted in decreased voter turnout. Turnout is even smaller in low and middle income communities where individuals do not enjoy the luxury of taking a three hour lunch to eat and vote. For many, the hour they lose in wages when they go to the polls may mean the difference between paying the bills or finding themselves out on the street.

It is irresponsible of us to continue forcing Americans to choose between a paycheck, family time, or democracy. It is the Constitutional privilege of every American to vote. In moving our nation's Election Day to the first full weekend in November and extending it from one day to two days, we recognize the responsibility that we have to our constituents and our democratic heritage. We should be doing everything we can to protect the integrity of our election system by not only encouraging Americans to vote, but making it more convenient for them to do so.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT), a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary which it will celebrate this Friday evening, April 15th, with a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer.

NABWMT began in September, 1980 with an advertisement its founder, the late Michael G. Smith, placed in The Advocate. From this small advertisement NABWMT has grown into a national 501(c)(3) organization with headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA and local chapters in the major cities of the United States, including Washington, DC.

The national and the local chapter engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV -AIDS discrimination, and other inequities. Among the more prominent of these activities are the Discrimination Response System, a model program which, I am proud to note, the DC Chapter

created, and the widely presented Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural Workshop.

In the 1980's, local chapters initiated AIDS education and prevention programs that, in 1988, resulted in a million dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control, which made the NABWMT the first openly gay organization to receive federal funds to conduct a nation-wide HIV education program. From this grant NABWMT created the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. In 1992 the National Task Force became a separate entity which conducted trainings and workshops for every active chapter in NABWMT. The Task Force created HIV/AIDS educational models that community-based organizations, health departments, and activists used throughout the United States and in countries from New Zealand to South Africa.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the National Association of Black and White Men Together on its silver anniversary.

#### THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies and programs. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the U.S. should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Since the United States decided to re-join UNESCO in 2003, Congress has appropriated funds to cover some 25 percent of the organization's entire budget. But what are we getting for this money?

UNESCO has joined the "International Network for Cultural Policy" in seeking a UN "global diversity initiative" by this year that would restrict US export of some \$70 billion worth of movies, television programs, music recordings, and other cultural products.

UNESCO sponsors the International Baccalaureate program, which seeks to indoctrinate US primary and secondary school students through its "universal curriculum" for teaching global citizenship, peace studies and equality of world cultures. This program, started in Europe, is infiltrating the American school system.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

Continued membership in UNESCO is a blatant assault on our sovereignty and an inexcusable waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in calling for an end to U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1028 OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 of Belleville, Illinois.

In 1905, 31 members of the Knights of Columbus Council in East St. Louis, who lived in or near Belleville, Illinois, desired to have their own Council. After several rounds of negotiations with Bishop Janssen, the first bishop of the Belleville Diocese, this committee was successful in obtaining his approval. The National Council issued the charter and the first meeting of Belleville Council 1028 was held on July 7, 1905.

From this small but determined group of initial members, Council 1028 would grow to a peak of approximately 700 knights at the time of their Golden Jubilee, in 1955. During this time of growth, the goals of the Knights of Columbus, Charity, Unity and Fraternity, would be the guiding principals of the Belleville Council.

In 1906, one year after the Council was formed, and again in 1907, Council 1028 presented Bishop Janssen with checks of \$1,000,—a substantial sum in those days!—for the support of 81st. John's Orphanage. For the remaining time that 81st. John's was in existence as an orphanage, that institution was a favorite charity of Council 1028. Other worthy recipients of support through the years have been 81st. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Newman Foundation at Illinois Universities, Parent Teachers of Exceptional Children, the Mamie O. Stookey School, the Autism Society of Illinois, the Murray Center, Special Olympics and numerous local organizations.

The Belleville Council has always been a supporter of local youth activities. Boy Scout Troop 16, at St. John's Orphanage, was organized by the Council and supported for years. Catholic grade school field days were sponsored and numerous trophies were supplied for individual and team sports. The Council still sponsors local youth sport teams and continues to hold annual and recreational programs and many religious activities have helped promote camaraderie among the knights and their families.

While the names are too numerous to mention of those who have been instrumental in the history of the Belleville Council, one name is now officially linked to the Council. The Belleville Council is now named Monsignor Leonard A. Bauer Council 1028 to honor the dedicated service of Monsignor Bauer as the Council Chaplain for many years.

Council 1028 has seen many changes through the last 100 years but they have always stayed true to the Knights of Columbus goals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 and wish them the best for continued service in the future.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF PEACEMAKING

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF) who on April 9, 2005, celebrated their ninetieth anniversary marking their work for peace for justice.

We commend Phyllis S. Yingling and the Joint Planning Committee of the Baltimore/Catonsville area for their hard work on behalf of women and world peace.

WILPF, located in 36 nations, was formed in 1915 during World War I. WILPF works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom and justice for all.

Out of a meeting planned amongst western European and N. American suffragists grew WILPF. The meeting was supposed to be in Berlin. The war prevented the women from going to Berlin, so the women went to The Hague. Over 1200 women attended. At that meeting the women decided that ending the killing and the violence of war was even more important than suffrage for women.

WILPF's first International President was Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago and the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The United States Section of WILPF maintains a presence in Washington, D.C. providing support and organizing connections for the grassroots activities of WILPF's members located in 80 branches across the United States. They work in coalition with other disarmament, women's human rights, and racial and economic justice organizations to translate women's experience and vision into policies to promote peace and justice.

For the last nine decades, WILPF has had a vision of peaceful and non-violent solutions to conflicts around the world.

We salute WILPF for their remarkable vision that we respect and that which still guides us today as we face the human security challenges of tomorrow.

HONORING JUDGE MATTHEW J. JASEN, RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today, Thursday, April 14, 2005, the New York State Court of Appeals will for the first time in modern

memory hold a session outside of the State capital of Albany. For this august occasion they have chosen the newly-renovated courtroom of Erie County Surrogate Court Judge Barbara Howe.

Tomorrow, however, the seven member court will honor one of its former members, and that is the reason why I rise today. Tomorrow, former New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Matthew Jasen, a resident of the town of Orchard Park in my congressional district, will be honored by his successor colleagues on the court.

Judge Jasen was the Court of Appeals' first Judge of Polish-American descent. The most recent Western New Yorker to be elected to New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals, Judge Jasen is an outstanding contributor to the Western New York community and to the legal profession, and I am proud to honor him today.

Through a combination of intellect and fortitude, Judge Jasen worked his way through the Great Depression to achieve great heights in Western New York's legal community. Educated at Buffalo's own Canisius College and receiving his law degree from the University at Buffalo, Judge Jasen went on to attend Harvard University's Civil Affairs School, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1940.

Before beginning his distinguished career in law, Jasen was called to serve his country in the armed services in Germany during World War II. Following his service, he received an appointment to serve as the United States Military Court Judge at Heidelberg, where he presided over trials of Nazi Youth groups.

In 1957, Jasen was appointed to his second judgeship, the New York State Supreme Court, and 10 years later, Judge Jasen took on the race for Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Today, Judges of the New York State Court of Appeals are appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. This was not so in the 1960s, when Judges instead ran for this office in statewide elections. Through his skills as a grass-roots organizer and with tremendous perseverance, Judge Jasen, a loyal and longtime Democrat, was elected to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Jasen's career on the state's highest court ranged from his election in 1967 to his statutory retirement in 1985 at the age of seventy. During his 18 years on the high court, Judge Jasen played a part in hundreds of landmark decisions of the court, and played a significant role in the court's transition from an elected body to one of appointment based on merit. Nowadays, court appointments are made by the Governor, who must choose his Appeals court appointees from a list of three candidates presented to him by a judicial screening panel. An elected Judge himself, Judge Jasen was a strong advocate for merit selection, having authored articles on the subject in the mid-1970s.

Following his retirement, Judge Jasen re-entered the practice of law himself, serving as Of Counsel to law firms operated by his sons, Peter M. Jasen, Esq. and Mark Matthew Jasen, Esq. Despite advancing age, Judge Jasen's post-judicial legal career has been a busy one as well, taking part in cases on local, State and Federal levels, serving as Special Master in a number of State and Federal actions and in performing other services as an officer of the court.

I am proud to honor Judge Matthew J. Jasen today—an outstanding member of the bar and of the Western New York community—and I am certain that the whole of our community would join with me in offering my congratulations to Judge Jasen upon his receipt of this most recent honor in his long and distinguished career. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to share with the House Judge Jasen's accomplishments and for allowing me this chance to join in honoring him.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND  
DREW CABLE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Andrew Cable.

Andrew Cable graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1992, and received his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he decided to pursue a career in law and real estate. He has had an extremely varied and successful professional life: he currently holds a real estate license, a license as a community corrections officer, and a certification in commercial banking.

He and his wife, Rebecca, have been tireless volunteers in their community. Mr. Cable is a member of many organizations, including the Texas Justice Court Judges Association, the Texas Community Justice Task Force, the Wimberly High School Mentor Program, and the Community Emergency Response Team Advisory Board.

Mr. Cable was elected Justice of the Peace in 1998. He represents Precinct 3 of Hays County, which includes, among several other towns, Mr. Cable's home of Wimberly. His extensive education and experience make him an excellent public servant, and an important resource for his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Cable is the sort of energetic, knowledgeable leader who holds our communities together. The people of Hays County are lucky to have him as a Justice of the Peace, and I am happy to have the chance to acknowledge him here today.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team. The Cardinals won the title of Boys Basketball Division III California State Champions 2004–05. Led by Coach Pete Newell Jr., the exciting victory of 67–56 against St. Augustine took place on March 19, 2005.

The Boys Basketball team has enjoyed a winning season with their record standing at 36–1. Their only loss was by one point to

Santa Margarita in a suspenseful overtime. The team set a Central Coast record with 36 season victories, the most by any team, boys or girls, in the state this season. Their accomplishments brought unprecedented firsts for the Central Coast community.

All nineteen Cardinal players were able to contribute to the successful season. After thirty years of coaching the Santa Cruz High School's Boys Basketball team and with the 2005 State Championship under his belt, Mr. Newell has opted to retire with a winning record. Throughout his career, he has led the team to victory 554 out of 880 games. Mr. Newell's diligent efforts will surely be missed by the Cardinals and the Santa Cruz community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team on their Division III State Championship. They have demonstrated hard work, perseverance, and relentless dedication to the sport of basketball. I extend my congratulations to the Cardinals and wish the team many successful seasons to come.

MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was barely 20 years ago when the nation first became concerned with minority communities and the disproportionate impact from polluting facilities. At that time, we referred to this problem as environmental racism. This was a term which strongly depicted the harsh reality and the disparities of environmental policy or practices affecting individuals, groups, or communities based on race or color. In the last decade, the pursuit against environmental racism has been transformed into an effort to achieve environmental justice in all socio-economic communities, suggesting that we are making wiser environmental policy decisions and engaging in a proactive approach.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. EO 12898 required that all appropriate federal agencies collect data on the health and environmental impact of their programs and activities on "minority populations" and "low-income populations" and to develop policies to achieve environmental justice. EO 12898 also requires federal agencies and their funding recipients to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by conducting their programs and implementing policies in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Despite EO 12898, federal efforts to achieve environmental justice have been minimal at best. In fact, in 2002, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held hearings on the issue and concluded that due to organizational and financial limitations, "there is inconsistency and unevenness in the degree to which agencies achieved integration of environmental justice into their core mission." It also noted that "current funding and staffing levels [at federal agencies] undermine meaningful Title VI enforcement at a time when there are increasing judicial barriers to enforcing Title VI."

I come to the floor today to introduce legislation that expands the definition of environmental justice, directs each Federal Agency to establish an office of environmental justice, re-establishes the interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice, and requires that EO 12898 remain in force until changed by law. My legislation represents a significant step in ensuring that current and future federal policies reflect the intentions and goals of EO 12898 and protect minority and low-income communities from poor environmental and energy decisions and policies.

I ask for my colleagues support, and urge the House Leadership to expeditiously bring this critical legislation to the House floor for consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTON-  
OMY ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Senate Government Affairs Chair SUSAN COLLINS, Ranking Member Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, House Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN and I introduce H.R. 1629, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2005, which passed the Senate in the last Congress, but did not pass the House. It marked the most significant change in self-government since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973. Instead, Congress continues to essentially use the same oversight process it has used since the District was created as a functioning city more than 200 years ago. The partial budget autonomy in this bill would be a major step to improve the efficiency of the congressional appropriations process and a historic step toward full self-government for the District of Columbia.

Our bill starts as a compromise that is less than what the District and every local jurisdiction is entitled to in the management of its local funds. As important as this bill is, it is not the self-contained and more efficient procedure used by every state and locality in our country. The District's budget would still come to the Congress, but it would be discharged after 30 calendar days. This step would take the city a great distance toward functional budget autonomy and away from a congressional process that adds large dollar costs to running the city, and incalculable waste and inefficiency directly traceable to the congressional appropriations process.

Our bill would significantly streamline and untangle the process. It also would eliminate the most inefficient and demeaning impediment to the local control every other jurisdiction enjoys, in requiring that the budget of the local jurisdiction be enacted by the District and the Congress as Congress enacts the budgets of federal agencies, such as the Interior Department and the Labor Department.

For most of my service in Congress, the enactment requirement has usually kept the District from having a local annual budget with which to operate and manage the city for months at a time. The requirement of our bill

that the D.C. budget become operative after 30 calendar days would have large effects on everything from the District's bond rating to its ability to more efficiently manage every function of the D.C. government.

The irony is that the Congress almost never changes the District's locally raised core budget in any case. Even at its most intrusive, Congress has realized that when it comes to the complexities of budget decisions for city agencies, Congress is in foreign territory. This is only one of the reasons that I think members of the House and Senate have been open to the change we propose. I appreciate the support this approach already has received in the Senate.

For years Congress saw the D.C. budget wreck the larger appropriation process for the country. Too often the District appropriation, by far the smallest of all of the appropriations, has been the largest impediment to the entire appropriation process and a major cause of delay. I am especially grateful for the way that Chairman BILL YOUNG worked with me to remove obstacles and often to rescue the D.C. budget altogether. I expect that my good friend, JERRY LEWIS, our new appropriations chair who has often been helpful to me and the city, will want to see the District come smoothly through the process as well. Speaker DENNIS HASTERT and former Speaker Newt Gingrich both have become involved as a last resort, when only they could rescue the locally raised budget from lengthy delays. I very much appreciate that they have always responded when I have asked for their help.

However, the local balanced budget of a great city should not need extraordinary action by House speakers or full appropriation chairs. Despite a national economy that has left states and local jurisdictions on their knees, in recent years the District has balanced its budget without raising taxes and without using its cash reserve funds. Because the Mayor and the City Council have been cautious and conservative in their management of city finances and operations, the District has avoided the budget problems that plague many jurisdictions today.

After more than 200 years of unchanged procedures here in the Congress, the city's record today and the bill we are considering today should be the beginning of improvement of congressional processes in aid of greater efficiency for the D.C. government. Even full city autonomy over its local budget would not

deprive the Congress of the right to make changes by legislation.

Congressional enactment of the Home Rule Act after a century of struggle was a major breakthrough. However, Congress has made no major step toward self-government since 1973. Surely the place to begin is with the city's own budget. Today must mark a long awaited step toward equal citizenship and equal treatment by the Congress. At the very least, the District is owed a Congressional response in kind to the very substantial improvements the city has made in its finances and operations for six years. The way to begin is by matching the District's greater efficiency in managing its finances and operations with the same in our own processes. The way to begin is with budget autonomy.

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THE AMERICAN JUSTICE FOR  
AMERICAN CITIZENS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Justice for American Citizens Act, which exercises Congress's Constitutional authority to regulate the federal judiciary to ensure that federal judges base their decisions solely on American Constitutional, statutory, and traditional common law. Federal judges increasing practice of "transjudicialism" makes this act necessary. Transjudicialism is a new legal theory that encourages judges to disregard American law, including the United States Constitution, and base their decisions on foreign law. For example, Supreme Court justices have used international law to justify upholding race-based college admissions, overturning all state sodomy laws, and, most recently, to usurp state authority to decide the age at which criminals becomes subject to the death penalty.

In an October 28, 2003 speech before the Southern Center for International Studies in Atlanta, Georgia, Justice O'Connor stated: "[i]n ruling that consensual homosexual activity in one's home is constitutionally protected, the Supreme Court relied in part on a series of decisions from the European Court of Human Rights. I suspect that with time, we will rely increasingly on international and foreign

law in resolving what now appear to be domestic issues, as we both appreciate more fully the ways in which domestic issues have an international dimension, and recognize the rich resources available to us in the decisions of foreign courts."

This statement should send chills down the back of every supporter of Constitutional government. After all, the legal systems of many of the foreign countries that provide Justice O'Connor with "rich resources" for her decisions do not respect the same concepts of due process, federalism, and even the presumption of innocence that are fundamental to the American legal system. Thus, harmonizing American law with foreign law could undermine individual rights and limited, decentralized government.

There has also been speculation that transjudicialism could be used to conform American law to treaties, such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, that the Senate has not ratified. Mr. Speaker, some of these treaties have not been ratified because of concerns regarding their effects on traditional American legal, political, and social institutions. Judges should not be allowed to implement what could be major changes in American society, short-circuit the democratic process, and usurp the Constitutional role of the Senate to approve treaties, by using unratified treaties as the bases of their decisions.

All federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, take an oath to obey and uphold the Constitution. The Constitution was ordained and ratified by the people of the United States to provide a charter of governance in accord with fixed and enduring principles, not to empower federal judges to impose the transnational legal elites' latest theories on the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the drafters of the Constitution gave Congress the power to regulate the jurisdiction of federal courts precisely so we could intervene when the federal judiciary betrays its responsibility to uphold the Constitution and American law. Congress has a duty to use this power to ensure that judges base their decisions solely on American law.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do their Constitutional duty to ensure that American citizens have American justice by cosponsoring the American Justice for American Citizens Act.